

1956



1956

Letting (II)

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
Borough of
Clifton Dartmouth Hardness



D. K. MacTAGGART, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

1956



1956

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the


Borough of

Clifton Dartmouth Hardness



D. K. MacTAGGART, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29151016>

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for 1956

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness*

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1956 in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

The health of the borough continues to be good with no marked changes in the vital statistics and no undue incidence of infectious disease, as can be seen from the figures in the following pages.

With regard to the vital statistics, there was a rise in the total births occurring, from 66 in 1955 to 81 in 1956. This gives a crude birth rate of 11 per thousand population and when adjusted for variations in the age and sex make-up of the population the corrected birth rate is 15.1 per thousand population which compares with 12.15 in 1955 and a figure of 15.7 for England and Wales as a whole in 1956.

The total number of deaths was 73 compared with 83 in 1955, giving a crude death rate of 12.16 per thousand population, and a corrected death rate of 10.58 per thousand. The rate for 1955 was 11.38 and for England and Wales in 1956 was 11.7. These differences in the figures between the years are not of great significance as such fluctuations do occur when comparatively small numbers are involved, such as the number of births and deaths in Dartmouth.

The chief causes of death were as follows:—

Malignant Disease	20
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System	18
Heart Disease	18

These are the diseases which mainly attack people in the older age groups and they were responsible for 76 per cent. of all the deaths in the Borough.

With regard to infectious disease the incidence has been, on the whole, low but there was a moderately heavy outbreak of whooping cough and a rather higher incidence of acute primary pn  umonia, than usual. For the second year in succession the incidence of tuberculosis has been extremely low, there being only six cases, comparing with four the previous year, and 13 in 1951.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Based on the Registrar General's figures

1.							
Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	1925
Population—Census 1951 (April)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6707
Registrar-General's estimated resident population 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	5830
Registrar-General's estimated resident population 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	6000
Number of inhabited houses, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	1803
Number of inhabited houses, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	2278
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£86,221
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£364

2.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year

	Total	Male	F'male
Live Births	84	41	43
Legitimate	81	39	42
Illegitimate	3	2	1
Still Births	3	2	1
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Crude Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population			14.00
Comparability Factor			1.10
Corrected Birth Rate			15.4
	Total	Male	F'male
Deaths	73	34	39
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			12.16
Comparability Factor			0.87
Standardised Death Rate			10.58
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth:			
Pueperal Sepsis			0
Other Pueperal Causes			0
	Total	Male	F'male
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	1	0	1
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Death Rate of Infants per 1,000 live births			24.09

Causes of Death during 1956

	Total	Male	F'male	
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	1	0	
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0	
Syphilitic disease	0	0	0	
Diphtheria	0	0	0	
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	
Mening-coccal infections	0	0	0	
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	
Measles	0	0	0	
Other inf. and parasitic dis.	1	0	1	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	1	
" " lung, bronchus	2	2	0	
" " breast	1	0	1	
" " uterus	1	0	1	
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	14	6	8	
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0	
Diabetes	0	0	0	
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	18	9	9	
Coronary disease, angina	9	6	3	
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0	
Other heart disease	4	1	3	
Other circulatory disease	5	3	2	
Influenza	0	0	0	
Pneumonia	1	0	1	
Bronchitis	0	0	0	
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	0	0	0	
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	0	0	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0	1	
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0	
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	1	0	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0	
Congenital malformations	0	0	0	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	10	3	7	
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	0	
All other accidents	0	0	0	
Suicide	1	0	1	
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0	
All causes	Total	73	34	39

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease

The number of cases of notifiable diseases are listed in the table below. The most notable feature is the outbreak of Measles of which there were 138 cases. This took place during the months of November and December.

Diseases other than Tuberculosis, notified during the year

Disease	Cases notified		
	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	0	1	1
Whooping Cough	22	36	58
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	2
Measles	22	25	47
Acute Primary Pneumonia	10	8	18
Food Poisoning	0	0	0
Chicken-Pox	5	1	6
Puerperal Fever	0	1	1
	—	—	—
	60	73	133

Tuberculosis

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	4	2	6
Non-Pulmonary	0	0	0
	—	—	—
	4	2	6

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

Samples taken by the Sanitary Inspector, are examined and reported upon by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

The procedure adopted as a safeguard against the infection of milk by tubercle bacilli and other organisms is detailed by the Sanitary Inspector. Prompt steps are taken to ensure that any suspected raw and untreated milk ceases to be distributed without delay, in the borough.

Ice Cream

Examination of samples by the Public Health Labora-

tory Service at Exeter has continued. Ice Cream is graded as follows :—

Provisional Grade	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue	Interpretation
1.	4½ hours or more	Satisfactory
2.	2½ to 4 hours	Fair
3.	½ to 2 hours	Unsatisfactory
4.	0	Very Bad

Your Officers investigate and advise in all cases where satisfactory results are not being obtained. It should be noted that the chemical and bacteriological testing of ice cream remains yet on trial in a scientific sense and has not reached that stage of being able to be used in taking legal action.

Meat

It is very satisfactory to note that the quality of meat inspected at the Abattoir has improved, and that the amount of disease discovered was markedly less, although there was a rise in the incidence of tuberculous in pigs.

Water Supplies

Supply has been adequate. Chlorination has been continued at the main source as a final treatment after filtration. By maintaining a relatively high dosage of chlorine, the Water Board have continued to obtain a final satisfactory drinking water.

There are 38 properties scattered about the Borough which get their supply of water from private sources. The majority of these sources of supply are from springs or shallow wells situated invariably on agricultural land and are, with the exception of one, unfiltered and unchlorinated.

Water samples taken through the year have revealed some evidence of bacterial contamination, but there has been a general improvement in the situation, as those supplies showing the most consistent rate of contamination have been eliminated and the premises concerned are now supplied by the South Devon Water Board.

Housing

Housing details and visits made are noted in the report by the Sanitary Inspector. Additional visits have been made by your Medical Officer in connection with applications for rehousing recommended upon medical grounds by certificates from general medical practitioners. Visits have also been paid to see Aged People and inspect their housing conditions in

connection with your statutory duties under the National Assistance Act.

In addition, a survey of the Housing conditions of the borough was made in accordance with the Housing Acts 1936-54, and a scheme of slum clearance was drawn up affecting 38 properties.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

i Laboratory Facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health), Public Health Laboratory, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter. Specimens are submitted from private practitioners and from this Department for bacteriological examination.

ii Ambulance Services

This service is under the general direction of the County Medical Officer (Ambulance Section), "Ivybank," 45, St. David's Hill, Exeter (telephone Exeter 4051). Dartmouth has one ambulance, which is run by the St. John Ambulance and Nursing Brigade under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council. The ambulance is used for emergency and non-infectious stretcher cases, and may be called by doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, hospitals or clinics. The ambulance station is situated at Roseville Street, Dartmouth—telephone Dartmouth 76/77.

Infectious Disease Ambulance.

Ambulance arrangements for infectious disease (other than smallpox) are made by the Torquay Isolation Hospital (telephone Torquay 63276) for cases entering the hospital from the Dartmouth area.

Hospital Car Service.

The Hospital Car Service (organised by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, British Red Cross Society and the Women's Voluntary Service) operates under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council for sitting cases.

iii Hospitals.

The Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital, situated at The Embankment, Dartmouth (telephone Dartmouth 41), is administered by the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from

Dartmouth also attend the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, which is the principal general hospital for the area.

iv Clinics.

The Devon County Council have a clinic situated at Mayor's Avenue, Dartmouth, where mothers of young children attend for advice on the care of young children. School children attend for treatment of minor ailments, for dental treatment, and for advice and treatment at an Eye Clinic held there.

v Health Visitors.

There is one Health Visitor—Mrs. Travis—who combines school medical duties with health visiting. She is on the staff of the County Medical Officer.

vi Nursing in the Home.

This service is provided by the Local Health Authority (Devon County Council), and the following nurses carry out these duties in Dartmouth :

Miss Culley, 11, Fairview Road, Dartmouth. Telephone Dartmouth 268.

Miss Stirling, 11, Fairview Road, Dartmouth. Telephone Dartmouth 268.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948/53

Section 47 of the Act of 1948, as amended, relates to the removal to suitable premises of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions, and are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, proper care or attention.

No action was necessary under the provisions of this section during the year.

I wish to record my appreciation of the support I have received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, and also of the loyal and efficient help which I have received from Mr. Hughes, the Chief Public Health Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

D. K. MacTAGGART,
Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Public Health Inspector

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report for the year ending the 31st December, 1956.

SECTION D

HOUSING

1.—*Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year :—*

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act or Housing Acts) | 205 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 620 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included in the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 | 9 |
| (3) | | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 6 |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 95 |

2.—*Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	71
--	----

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—*

(a) Proceedings, under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :—				
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	0
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requesting defects to be remedied	...	...	...	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—				
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	11
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	0
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	4
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—				
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	4
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	1

4.—*Housing Act 1936, Part VI. Overcrowding*

(a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	4

(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	12
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	15
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have once again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	0

180 complaints were received and dealt with during the year and 205 houses were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts. Four unfit premises were closed for human habitation.

Four houses were demolished during the year, two of which were the subject of an appeal by the owner to The County Court against the demolition orders. The appeal was eventually dismissed with costs against the appellant.

Nine other houses were surveyed and recorded for attention under slum clearance procedure.

It is unfortunate that clearance schemes have coincided with the cessation of Council House building, which makes it difficult to find accommodation for families displaced from unfit properties. This lack of alternative accommodation has held up the slum clearance scheme and is apparently likely to do so in the future.

Generally speaking, property has been well maintained during the year, although only three applications were made for improvement grants.

These were for the installation of hot water supplies and bathrooms ; very few of the older houses in the town have these amenities. The three applications were from owner-occupiers and were all granted.

ABRIDGED SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED AND INSPECTED

Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	12
External Walls	...	...	...	...	...	15
Internal Plastering	...	...	...	...	...	15
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	7
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	5
Windows	...	...	...	...	...	19
Fireplaces	...	...	...	...	...	4
Doors	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	7
Premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	17

DRAINAGE

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	86
Tests carried out	...	...	...	...	48
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	44
Gullies provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	15
Sinks	...	...	...	...	20
Rainwater pipes and gutters	...	...	...	...	18
Water closets provided, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	9
New drains laid (excluding new properties)	...	...	...	...	31
Inspection chambers built or repaired	...	...	...	...	18

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

There remain four registered dairies in the town, one of which is equipped with a Holder type pasteurising plant from which 48 samples of milk were taken, all of which conformed to the standard of pasteurised milk. Two farms are registered for the sale of tuberculin tested farm bottled milk. The remaining farmers dispatch all milk produced to a central pasteurising plant. Twenty samples of milk were sent to the laboratory for the methylene blue cleanliness test. 22 of these passed the test. Three failed and two were spoilt in transit.

Twenty samples were submitted for the Tuberculin Test and all were declared free from the disease. Five samples of school milk were sent for examination, all passed the cleanliness and pasteurisation tests.

Those samples which failed the cleanliness test were investigated on the farms concerned by the County Milk Production Officer.

(b) FOOD PREMISES

During the year one new bakers and confectioners shop was opened. One bakehouse, one Guest House and two small general stores were closed. Copies of The Food Hygiene Regulations were handed and explained to all occupiers of food premises, and the response to the requirements of the Regulations has been generally good. Although three written and sixteen verbal notices were necessary, the majority of occupiers carried out the requirements of the Regulations to the full, realising that bright, clean premises in themselves attract business.

Altogether 561 visits were made to food premises in the town excluding visits to the Abattoir. Food condemned at shops and places, other than the Abattoir, amounted to 186½ lbs. This was disposed of by incineration.

Visits were made as follows :—

Market and Stalls (16 stallholders) ...	...	40
16 Cafes and Restaurants, Canteens ...	...	120
10 Bakehouses and Confectioners ...	...	60
21 Hotels ... ..	...	52
20 Ice Cream Premises ... ..	...	49
6 Wet and Fried Fish Shops ... ..	...	17
10 Butchers ... ..	...	114
28 Fruit and Grocery ... ..	...	82
4 Dairies ... ..	...	27

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed (if known) ...	405	27	35	4300	1216	--
No. Inspected ...	405	27	35	4300	1216	—

All diseases exc. Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcases						
condemned	—	1	2	2	5	—
Carcases of which						
some part or organ						
was condemned	100	16	2	272	58	—
Percentage of the No.						
inspected affected with						
disease other than						
tuberculosis and						
cysticerci	24.69	62.96	11.43	6.37	5.18	—

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases						
condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which						
some part or organ						
was condemned	25	2	—	—	26	—
Percentage of the No.						
inspected effected with						
tuberculosis	6.42	7.41	—	—	2.14	—

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which						
some part or organ						
was condemned	9	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to						
treatment by						
refrigeration	9	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and						
totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat Inspection

Over twice as many animals were killed at the Public Abattoir than the previous year, resulting in a much greater demand on the time spent on meat inspection. However all the animals dealt with were inspected post mortem. With the exception of steers and heifers, the incidence of disease other than tuberculosis showed an increase, whilst the reverse was apparent in the case of tuberculosis. Although the same number of animals were found to be affected with cysticercus bovis the percentage was less. Carcases found to be affected (no generalised case was discovered), were sent for the prescribed treatment. The practice of staining condemned meat prior to disposal to a reputable processing firm was continued throughout the year.

OTHER UNSOUND FOOD INSPECTED, CONDEMNED AND DESTROYED

	lbs.			lbs.
Imported Beef	23	"	Luncheon Meat	4½
Cod Flaps	28	"	Tomatoes	½
Tinned Corned Beef	30	"	Soup	3
" Tongue	6	"	Chicken	12
" Ham	2	"	Livers	20
" Peas	13½	"	Stewed Steaks	12
" Beans	4	"	Peach Pulp	6
" Peaches	6	"	Jellied Veal	6
" Pears	4	"	Shrimps	½
" Pinapples	3	"	Evaporated Milk	3

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Samples of food taken for analysis during the year included :—

- 7 samples of raw milk
- 1 sample of ground almond
- 1 sample of chocolate Swiss roll
- 1 sample of lemon essence
- 1 sample of butter
- 1 sample of chocolate pudding
- 1 sample of marzipan
- 1 sample of Sucrets lozenges

All these samples were declared to be genuine.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year. The annual return required by Circular 46/49, Memo 188/MED, was submitted to the Ministry of Health.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1938—PART I OF THE ACT.

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	M/C line No.	Number on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	M/C	
					line	No
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	—	(6)
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	6	4	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	33	70	0	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total ...	—	39	74	0	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	M/C line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in which	M/C line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred		
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions were instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7) (8)
Want of Cleanliness (51) ...	4	0	0	—	—	4
Overcrowding (52) ...	5	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable						
Temperature (53) ...	6	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate Ventilation (54)	7	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of						
Floors (56) ...	8	—	—	—	—	8

Particulars	M/C line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in which No.		
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
					To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions were instituted
<hr/>							
Sanitary Conveniences (57)							
(a) Insufficient ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	0	0	—	0	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
<hr/>							
Total ...	60	—	—	—	—	—	60

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955

Name of Local Authority, Dartmouth (County) Devon

	Type of Property	Agricultural			
		Non-Agricultural	Total		
		Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other including B. Premises	of Cols. 1, 2 & 3
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
					(5)
I	Number of properties in Local Authority's district ...	10	1820	446	2276
					20
II	Number of properties inspected as a result of:—				
	(a) Notification ...	4	106	12	122
	(b) Survey under the Act ...	2	467	34	503
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	4	20	6	30
					0

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other including B. Premises	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
III	Total inspections carried out including re-inspections. (To be completed only if figures are readily available)				
IV	Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by				
	(a) Rats (Major)	...			
	(Minor)	...			
	Mice (Major)	4	25	114	—
	(Minor)	—	19	194	—
V	Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given in Sect. IV) ...				
	4	260	44	308	—

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Non-Agricultural		Agricultural	
	(1)	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other including B. Premises	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	(5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
VI Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments. (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	—	—	—	—	—
VII Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:—					
(a) Treatment	—	1	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. proofing)	—	1	—	—	—
VIII No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
IX Legal Proceedings (see overleaf)	—	—	—	—	—
X Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	32				

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

One operator is employed and works alternate weeks at Dartmouth and Brixham. This arrangement has worked well and infestations have been kept well under control.

Visits to properties were as follows :—

Agricultural	...	...	...	...	...	20
Private Premises	...	...	...	...	...	469
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	419
Estimated kill—Rats	265.					
" " Mice	175.					

Schools

All the milk supplied to schools was pasteurised and samples taken throughout the year were satisfactory.

The water supply to all the schools is from the South Devon Water Board's Moorland supply.

The cooking centre for school meals has always been found on inspection to be well maintained. The standard of hygiene has been most satisfactory and a credit to the Manageress, Miss D. E. Williams.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The incidence of infectious disease was confined principally to measles and whooping cough and very little disinfection of premises or bedding was required on this account. The steam disinfector was however put to considerable use by outside Authorities to whom a charge was made. Altogether 154 articles were treated. Thirteen premises were treated for vermin including four Council houses.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

The one licensed caravan site containing 25 caravans was very well maintained although in the peak period of the year, some trouble was encountered with the septic tank affluent. This was a new installation made possible by the introduction of a piped water supply to the site. The holiday houses were also very well maintained and in spite of the fact that they rely principally on rain water for domestic use, samples taken were satisfactory throughout the year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There is only one Registered User of Rag Flock. Supplies are obtained from licenced premises outside the Borough. No samples were taken during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Periodic inspections under the Act were carried out and no notices were issued.

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

The gradual elimination of unsatisfactory private water supplies was continued during the year. The St. Petrox supply which was connected to 31 houses and 3 conduits was taken over by the South Devon Water Board, thus eliminating a water supply which had caused concern to the Council for some years.

At the end of the year there remained 20 properties still dependent on private supplies from springs or wells of doubtful purity and these still require a careful watch and periodical sampling.

During the year, 52 samples of water were submitted for test to the County Laboratory; about 50 per cent of these showed evidence of contamination.

PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVE ACTS

Number of licenses granted to store Petroleum...	9
Number of licenses granted to store Mixed Explosives	10

GAME DEALERS' LICENSES

There were four licenses granted during the year authorising the dealing in game.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Council and my colleagues in other departments, particularly the Borough Engineer and his staff for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. HUGHES,,

Public Health Inspector,
Meat and Foods Inspector, Etc.

Chronicle (*Printers*). Dartmouth